



**Sunday, April 27, 2025**  
**St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Randy Sohn/ Kathy Jurk, Organist

*Our Mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God, become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of Christ's love with others.*

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Shine!**

In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Grow!**

In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Stand with strength!**

In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Trust!**

In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us, And with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Live!**

**Creator God, you call us to take on the holiness you have planted within us. In our worship this day, open our eyes and hearts to your movement that longs to make a home in us. So be it. Amen.**

**Hymn:**

*Gather Us In*

St. James (#47 - Binder); St. Mark's (#649)

**Affirming Our Faith Together: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:**

**He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body:**

**And the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Young at Heart:**



**First Scripture Reading:**

*Revelation 1:4-8; 3:20 ESV*

*John to the seven churches that are in Asia:*

*Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.*

*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

**Prayer of Confession:**

Maker, Healer, Gatherer God,

You formed our bodies from the dust and called them good.

You made all creation to be in fellowship with one another.

Just as the trees, the land and the waters have connections so deep that we cannot see them on the surface,

so too, do we have connections to you and one another.

Ever near God, draw us in to see the wounds of the world.  
Give us the strength to bear witness.  
Grant us the courage to proclaim what we have seen.  
Open the ears of all that are there to hear.

God, gather us together in your love;  
Strengthen our resolve to heal the country, the seas and airs;  
Open our hearts to your possibilities and bring healing to the people around us.

### **Moment of Silence:**

### **Words of Assurance:**

**Gentle God, we have wandered away from you, from your love, and from what gives you deepest delight in our lives, so our lives become hollow and hungry, lost and lonely. We return to you, and you receive us, accept us, forgive us, nourish us and bless us. May we always be yours.**

### **Scripture Reading:**

*John 20:19-31 ESV*

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

*Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"*

*But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."*

*A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."*

*Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

### **Message:**

*Embodied Believing*

**Dr. Patrick Schultz**

**Hymn:***Blessed Assurance*

St. James (#5 - Binder); St. Mark's (#426)

**Offering:**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

**Offertory Music:**

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Doxology:**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye, heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

O God, who gives to every man and woman their work, and through their labors does accomplish your purposes upon earth: Grant your blessing, we beg you, to those who are engaged in the work and business of this land.

Defend them from injustice and oppression; give them the due reward of their labors; and deepen within them the spirit of humble and unselfish service, according to the pattern of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Accept these humble offerings to further your ministry in this church, this community, our nation and beyond. *Amen.*

**Hymn:***Shine Jesus Shine*

St. James (Insert from Worship & Rejoice); St. Mark's (#319)

**Benediction:**

Go forth boldly and joyfully, as faithful followers of Christ, partnering with the Spirit in whatever you do. Now, may the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you today and forevermore.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord...

**Postlude:**

**COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!**

**St. James UCC**

**1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.**

**2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.**

**~Sunday School at St. James 9-10am ~**

**St. Mark's UCC**

**1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.**

**2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.**